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# ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH

THURSDAY • 11.02.2017 • $1.50

# SUSPECT CHOSE HALLOWEEN

## IMMIGRANT CHARGED, SAID TO BE PROUD OF NYC ATTACK

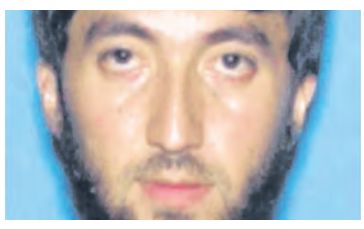
ASSOCIATED PRESS

**The Home Depot truck used in the bike path attack is removed from the crime scene on Wednesday in New York. Eight people died in the attack.**

**CHARGED IN KILLINGS**

**Sayfullo Saipov**

**REPORTEDLY COOPERATING**



**Mukhammadzoir Kadirov**

**BY DEVLIN BARRETT, MATT ZAPOTOSKY AND MARK BERMAN**
Washington Post

**NEW YORK** • Federal authorities on Wednesday charged the 29-year-old Uzbek immigrant they say plowed a rented truck into people walking and cycling on a New York City bike path — killing eight — with providing support to a terrorist organization, alleging that he was inspired by the Islamic State to inflict mayhem and chose Halloween because he figured there would be more people on the street.

In court papers, federal authorities said that Sayfullo Saipov told the FBI that he began planning his attack a year ago, though he settled on using a truck as a weapon only two months prior.

Saipov said that he was proud of what he had done — even requesting to display the Islamic State flag in his hospital room — and that he was inspired after he watched a video of Islamic State leader Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi,

**See TERRORISM • Page A7**

## BIG CROWD BUT NO WINNER

PHOTOS BY CHRIS LEE • clee@post-dispatch.com

**Attendees stand for the Pledge of Allegiance before the Queen of Hearts drawing at American Legion Post 1239 on Wednesday in Aviston, Ill. The Queen of Hearts jackpot was $695,030, and because the card was not drawn, it will roll over to next week's drawing.**

### Queen of Hearts jackpot at Illinois Legion Hall bringing big dreams

**BY ASHLEY LISENBY**
St. Louis Post-Dispatch

**AVISTON, ILL.** • Thousands of people packed into and overflowed the American Legion Hall here Wednesday hoping to see their number selected for a chance to win the nearly $700,000 jackpot in the Queen of Hearts drawing.

Jill Jones raced to the hall from her home in nearby Albers and turned out to be the one whose ticket was drawn from thousands for a chance at the riches.

She listened as the Legion commander announced: "It's a red card."

For a moment, the room that had been filled with the murmurs of conversation was fairly quiet.

**See JACKPOT • Page A6**

**Queen of Hearts tickets are deposited before the drawing at American Legion Post 1239 on Wednesday in Aviston, Ill.**

**CO-DEFENDANT CLAIMS:**

### Fitness firm boss dealt pot, helped kidnap and beat thief

J.B. FORBES • P-D

**Todd Beckman arrives for a massage at his Kirkwood store, Massage Luxe, in 2010.**

**BY ROBERT PATRICK**
St. Louis Post-Dispatch

**ST. LOUIS** • A local fitness company executive, Todd Beckman, was dealing dozens of pounds of marijuana on the side and conspired with others to kidnap and beat a man from Maplewood who had stolen money and marijuana from him, a Beckman co-defendant said in court Wednesday.

That co-defendant, Caleb Laubinger, also claims that Beckman pistol-whipped and beat the kidnapping victim and threatened to kill him before accepting $27,000 in ransom money. The victim was dropped off in a van bearing the logo of TanCo, one of the BAM Brands companies. Beckman founded the company and was president and CEO at the time of the kidnapping but is no longer.

Beckman's attorney could not be immediately reached for comment.

Laubinger, 27, of Pacific, pleaded guilty Wednesday in U.S. District Court in St. Louis

**See KIDNAP • Page A6**

## Russia's cyberwar continues far beyond election, senators say

"You have created these platforms and now they are being misused, and you have to be the ones that do something about it, or we will.'
**Sen. Dianne Feinstein**

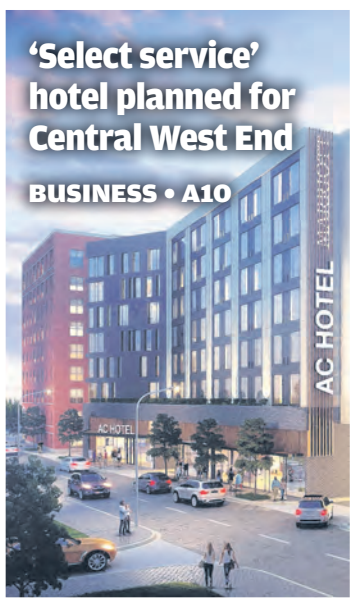
**BY CHUCK RAASCH**
St. Louis Post-Dispatch

**WASHINGTON** • U.S. Senators privy to the nation's secrets declared Wednesday that the United States faces what one called a "cataclysmic" cyberwar with Russia and other hostile entities, and these senators were highly critical of the American-based but global social media platforms on which that struggle is taking place.

Capping two days of hearings in which executives from Facebook, Twitter and Google were hauled before various congressional committees probing Russian influence on the 2016 election, Senate Intelligence Committee members

**See RUSSIA • Page A6**

"We have to be very thoughtful here about who decides what is voter suppression and what is not, who decides what level of speech is acceptable and what is not.'
**Sen. Roy Blunt**



U2 tour sets date for St. Louis in May • A2

House Republicans prepare tax bill • A8

Art Van Furniture to open stores • A10

Former P-D food critic dies • A15

Blues' Schenn set for Flyers reunion • B1

TODAY
**72°/50°**
ISOLATED SHOWERS

TOMORROW
**61°/55°**
PARTLY SUNNY

WEATHER
**B10**

**Better luck next time**

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